Monday, March 9

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Let me see if I can answer your questions. I lived in the New Orleans French Quarter from 1947 to the end of 1954. At that time I moved to San Francisco area and have never returned to N.O. I was a professional musician in the 40s and 50s. Some of the groups I worked with in N.O. were;

Dukes of Dixieland, Famous Door, Bourbon St.
New Orleans Opera Assn. Orchestra
Walter Herbert (Seligman), Musical Director
Steamer President Orchestra, Val Barbara, Director

I was born in Fargo, North Dakota in 1921, am Caucasian but have worked with Negro musicians over the years a good part of the time.

Lee Collins in Chicago Easy Street
Kid Ory in San Francisco--The Tin Angel, On the Levee
I substituted for George Lewis two winters at the Tin Angel when he became ill, working with his orchestra. Also Beverly Cavern, L.A.

I did not ever meet Shaw but of course I remember him driving his convertible down Dauphine and up Bourbon almost daily during the years I lived there. I did know an employee of his named Jim Hubbard, public relations man. Hubbard introduced me to Stan Freberg, the humorist, who was visiting N.O. Did the Trade Mart have an employee named Josie Hug (wife of Armand Hug)? I did know this couple.

The New Orleans Jazz historians, Bill Russell, Dick Allen and Barbara Reid are friends of mine. Possibly you have met them.

Dick Barber ran an automatic laundry on St. Peter St. between Bourbon and Dauphine in 1951. He was a friend of Dick Allen.

Helen Lounsberry was a friend of mine. I believe she had an apartment in the "skyscraper". She took care of Nancy Cass Moore on the occasion of her jump and told me about the needle marks on Nancy's arms.

The "skyscraper" was an apartment building (about five stories). A corner building, possibly Burgundy and St. Peter or St. Ann and Burgundy. A French Quarter old timer would remember.

On to Japan. I spent about four months in Japan. Middle of Oct., 1963 to middle of January, 1964. Nothing secret or sinister about it. I studied Japanese language at Tokyo Nihongo Gakko in Shibuya, Tokyo. Also, I helped a Japanese friend of mine tape record for two LP recordings that have since been issued by Electra in the U.S.

Classical Music of Japan EKL 286
Sounds of Japan EKL 297

January, 1964

I returned to S.F. from Japan at this time. Within two to three days I realized something was seriously wrong. I encountered hostility that I had never experienced before in my life. North Beach was an area I knew well from 1955 on. Now I found that people were doing double takes on me, conversations stopped when I entered a place such as Vesuvio's or City Lights Bookstore. The waiters at New Joe's became hostile, etc. I kept my mouth shut, eyes open and played dumb. This has continued for six years and is only now being resolved as I see it. For three years I made the air mail edition of the New York Times available in Marin County daily. This was of no great importance in itself but it allowed me to be on the streets and freeways of the bay area every day. There was a great deal of organized harassment. Even on several trips I made to L.A. and Reno by car I found this to be true. I have income from farm property in North Dakota I own and also I have been using my savings in the past six years. January, 1967 I still had no clue as to what had moved in on me. Then in February Garrison made his first public statement naming Clay Shaw. I heard this on the radio and after about ten seconds things started to fall into place. An effort had been made to make it appear as though I had had something to do with the John Kennedy assassination. Of course I can't prove this but I have no doubts about it. My thoughts went back to January, 1964 when I returned to S.F. This explains the thumb nail biographies which I wrote in 1969. These former New Orleans people and my years in New Orleans took on a new importance.

January 1968

THE GAVIN AND GARRISON CAMPAIGN

I decided to stage a put on political campaign. It couldn't hurt; it might help. Bumper stickers and other printed matter, newspaper ads, etc. I was interviewed on the Jim Dunbar show as an authority on bumper stickers.

I am sending you some of the printed matter from this campaign in a large manilla envelope. Keep in mind that the bumper stickers were taken seriously! When I realized that this was the case I went along with it with a straight face. I compiled mailing lists and mailed out several thousand of them.

June 1968 The Bobby Kennedy Assassination

This is where the map comes into the picture. The morning after the assassination, the gun Sirhan used was quickly traced back to its original owner. Mrs. Robert F. Dana Westlake, 349 Redwood Rd. Woodacre. Mrs. Westlake was quoted by the radio wire services that morning. She said the gun had been stolen. I heard this myself on the radio. By the time the Marin County daily, The Independent Journal, came out that afternoon it was a different story. She said she had given the gun to a neighbor boy while she was still living in Pasadena. I believe that her original story of the gun being stolen had something to do with my presence here.

Just before Christmas, 1969 I took my camera over to 349 Redwood Rd. and photographed the house; twenty times. I then had contact sheets made (three or four). I cut these up and then had 80 to 100 little photographs of the house. I wrote the address on the back of each and then mailed them individually to newspapers all over the state. The story on Mrs. Boudouris appeared in the IJ on Dec. 31. Was it a result of my mailing out these photographs? I don't know. I had no knowledge of the Boudouris couple before these two stories appeared. Why does Boudouris use the 131 Laurel address? Laurel St. is actually a dead end driveway for his home and the house is in back of him. 129 Laurel. In 1968 Burrill Devine and his wife Michelle lived next to the Boudouris couple at 129 Laurel. The Devines now have the same address as mine. 29 Rock Ridge Rd. We share the same parking area. The Devines have the Boudouris dog now and some of their furniture. The Devines are from Sacramento.

I think I had better cut this off here. For a different perspective on all this you would get in touch with William Turner, whom I am sure you know. I have had one conversation with him and have been sending him my mailings. His address is 925 Vernal Ave. Mill Valley, Ca. Also Allan Ross of Graphic Arts of Marin, Sausalito Ca. He printed my bumper stickers.

Best Wishes,

Bill Shea

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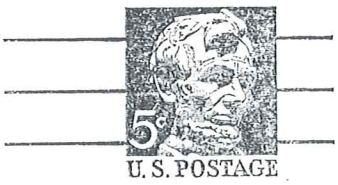

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